

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: July 20, 2005

Division: BOCC1

Bulk Item: Yes No X

Department: BOCC1

Staff Contact Person: Jana Johnson-Willi

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Discussion regarding increasing complaints of the growing colonies of iguanas. Being vegetarians they are considered harmless but they are eating plants, flowers and indigenous plants as well as being a real threat to small animals and children.

ITEM BACKGROUND: The State Department of Agriculture recommends trapping the iguana, then putting him in your freezer where he will die a painless death. This is not an acceptable means to rid the pest.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

TOTAL COST:

BUDGETED: Yes No

COST TO COUNTY:

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No **AMOUNT PER MONTH** **Year**

APPROVED BY: County Atty OMB/Purchasing Risk Management

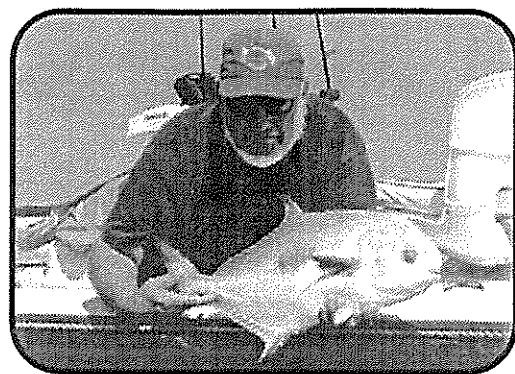
DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL: *Dixie M. Spehar*
Dixie M. Spehar, Mayor

DOCUMENTATION: Included Not Required

DISPOSITION: **AGENDA ITEM #**

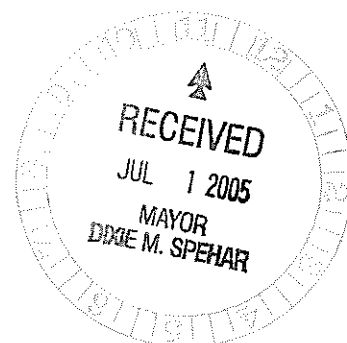
Captain Harlan Franklin

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June 28, 2005

The Honorable Dixie Spehar
Monroe County Commissioner
722 Prado Circle
Key West FL 33040



Good Morning,

I realize the last thing you need to be confronted with is a new problem. However, being the sole commissioner with good common sense, you are the logical person to approach. I don't know if you have had any complaints regarding iguanas, but let me assure you, the day is coming. Here in Key Haven, the iguana population has tripled since last summer, and as prolific as they obviously are, I expect they will triple again by next summer. I would assume you are aware that these big lizards are basically vegetarians, and therefore considered harmless. Well if you like plants and flowers in your yard, these critters are a major pest and far from harmless.

In Boca Grande, they have as many or more iguanas than we have. There, the city commission received so many complaints that they hired an exterminator to get rid of them. The exterminator caught two. The reason....by the time the commission got around to taking action, cool weather had arrived, and the iguanas had holed up for the winter. Which brings up a more serious problem. A few found their way into the attic of houses, and made nests in the insulation. That really made a mess. I used to spend time every fall in Boca Grande, have friends there, and read the local newspaper on my computer every week, which is how I am informed with their iguana problem.

Dixie, I hope you take this seriously. I hate bringing up a problem without a solution. The State Department of Agriculture recommends trapping the iguana, then putting him in your freezer where he will die a painless death. No thanks.

Sincerely,


Harlan & Janey Franklin